

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Amended) A non-electrical dog training aid adapted for use with a dog collar, the training aid comprising:

a) a body including a narrow center having a front side and a back side and having two ends, the ends each having two lobes extending to above and below the center, the ends being provided with elongated, transversely lengthwise extending openings for threading the collar therethrough and along the front side of the center; and

~~(1) a longitudinally extending center portion having a front side and a back side,~~  
and

~~(2) first and second opposing free ends extending longitudinally from said center portion, said first and second free ends being provided with first and second elongated, transversely lengthwise extending openings, respectively, for threading the collar therethrough and along the front side of the center portion; and~~

b) three first and second non-electrical posts projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center, one of said posts being located longitudinally between the other two of said posts and offset from a plane extending between said other two posts to establish a triangular orientation between the posts when viewed from behind portion.

Claim 2. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 1 in which said body is rigid, and said body and posts are formed from integrally molded plastic.

Claim 3. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 1 in which said posts are of equal length.

Claim 4. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 1 in which said posts are provided with rounded free ends.

Claim 5. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 1 in which said body is generally planar, with said front side and said back side parallel to one another.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Amended) The dog training aid as defined in claim 6 in which said lobes ~~upper and lower surfaces are formed~~ rounded when viewed in a line along a transverse axis through the body.

Claim 8. (Amended) The dog training aid as defined in claim 1 in which said plane extends longitudinally through said center of the body and between said ends such that said first and second other two posts are longitudinally aligned with one another respect to said body.

Claim 9. (Amended) A non-electrical dog training aid adapted for use with a dog collar, the training aid comprising:

a) a body including

(1) a longitudinally extending center portion having a front side and a back side, and

(2) first and second opposing free ends extending longitudinally from said center portion, said first and second free ends being provided with first and second elongated, transversely lengthwise extending openings for threading the collar therethrough and along the front side of the center portion; and

b) first and second posts projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center portion in a first longitudinal plane; and

c) a third post projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center portion longitudinally between said first and second posts in a second longitudinal plane parallel to but offset spaced from said first plane to establish a triangular orientation between the posts when viewed from behind.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 9 in which said body is rigid, and said body and posts are formed from integrally molded plastic.

Claim 12. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 9 in which said posts are of equal length.

Claim 13. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 9 in which said posts are provided with rounded free ends.

Claim 14. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 9 in which said body is generally planar, with said front side and said back side generally parallel to one another.

Claim 15. (Amended) The dog training aid as defined in claim 9 in which ~~said center portion includes a top and a bottom, and said first and second free ends include upper and lower lobes extending to above and below the center portion. surfaces, said center portion being narrower than said first and second free ends as defined by the spacing between said top and bottom and said upper and lower surfaces.~~

Claim 16. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 15 in which said lobes ~~upper and lower surfaces are formed~~ rounded when viewed in a line along a transverse axis through the body.

Claim 17. (Amended) A non-electrical dog collar training aid comprising:

a) a rigid body including

(1) a longitudinally extending center portion having a front side and a back side,

and

(2) first and second opposing free ends extending longitudinally from said center portion;

b) first and second posts projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center portion in a first longitudinal plane; and

c) a third post projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center portion longitudinally between said first and second posts in a second longitudinal plane parallel to but offset spaced from said first plane to establish a triangular orientation between the posts when viewed from behind.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 17 in which said body and said posts are formed from integrally molded plastic.

Claim 20. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 17 in which said posts are of equal length.

Claim 21. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 17 in which said posts are provided with rounded free ends.

Claim 22. (Original) The dog training aid as defined in claim 17 in which said body is generally planar, with said front side and said back side parallel to one another.

Claim 23. (Amended) The dog training aid as defined in claim 17 in which said ~~center portion includes a top and a bottom, and said first and second free ends include upper and lower lobes extending to above and below the center portion. surfaces, said center portion being narrower than said first and second free ends as defined by the spacing between said top and bottom and said upper and lower surfaces.~~

Claim 24. (Amended) The dog training aid as defined in claim 23 in which said lobes ~~upper and lower surfaces are formed~~ rounded when viewed in a line along a transverse axis through the body.

Claim 25. (Amended) A non-electrical dog training aid adapted for use with a dog collar, the training aid comprising:

a) a rigid, planer, generally bone-shaped body having a generally rectangular center with a front side and a back side and with two ends, the ends each having two lobes extending to above and below the center, the ends being provided with elongated, transversely lengthwise extending openings for threading the collar therethrough and along the front side of the center; and

~~(1) parallel front and back sides, there being a longitudinal center axis extending parallel between said front and back sides;~~

~~(2) a generally rectangular center portion having top and bottom surfaces extending between said front and back sides and generally parallel to said longitudinal center axis; and~~

~~(3) first and second free ends extending from said center portion, said first and second free ends being provided with first and second elongated, transversely lengthwise extending openings for threading the collar therethrough and along said front side, said ends having upper and lower edges extending between said front and back surfaces, said upper and lower edges being above and below said top and bottom surfaces of the center section with respect to said longitudinal center axis; and~~

b) three first and second posts of approximately equal length projecting rearwardly from the back side of said center portion, said body and said posts being rigidly formed together from integrally molded plastic, one of said posts being located longitudinally centered between the other two of said posts and offset from a plane extending between said other two posts to establish a triangular orientation between the posts when viewed from behind.

26. (Cancelled)